

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

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P 110930Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8252

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 17791

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: FY 76 NARCOTICS PROGRAM SUBMISSION

REF: STATE 234301

1. MISSION IS VERY APPRECIATIVE OF VIEWS EXPRESSED PARA
ON REFTEL AND LOOKS FORWARD TO SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE OF
VIEWS WITH AMBASSADOR VANCE ON REMAINING ISSUES.

2. REFTEL PARA 2(A). NATIONAL POLICE PROGRAM
A. MISSION PROPOSED TO FINANCE ONE FISHING TRAWLER
IN FY 75 ONLY IF INTERNAL TNPD ADMINISTRATIVE CON-
STRAINTS ON TRAWLER SUPPORT ARE OVERCOME. THESE
CONSTRAINTS ARE PRIMARILY LEGAL IN THAT, UNLESS
EXCEPTION CAN BE OBTAINED BY THE TNPd, RTG LAWS AND
REGULATIONS 1) REQUIRE VESSEL REGISTRATION WITH THE
HARBOR DEPARTMENT (WHICH IDENTIFIES THE TRAWLER
PUBLICLY AS A POLICE VESSEL DESTROYING COVER
ADVANTAGE) AND 2) PRECLUDE TNPd POL, MAINTENANCE,
AND PERDIEW SUPPORT UNLESS THE VESSEL IS REGISTERED
AS A POLICE CRAFT. THE PLANNED USE OF TRAWLERS,
MANNED BY THE MARINE POLICE POSING AS FISHERMEN AND
EQUIPPED WITH APPROPRIATE RADAR, RADIO EQUIPMENT AND
NIGHT VISION SCOPES, WOULD BE USED TO GATHER INTELLI-
GENCE ON TRAWLERS TRANSPORTING OPIUM AND DERIVATIVES
FROM THAILAND TO HONG KONG. THEY WOULD BE USED FOR
SUVEILLANCE OF SUSPECTED TRAWLERS AT CLOSE RANGE, NOW

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IMPOSSIBLE USING READILY IDENTIFIABLE MARINE POLICE

CRAFT. PURCHASE OF ANY SUBSEQUENT TRAWLERS WILL BE CONTINGENT ON MISSION EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVE USE OF THE FIRST TRAWLER. WE CONTINUE TO ENDORSE PROCUREMENT OF FIRST TRAWLER AND INCLUSION IN BUDGET OF TWO MORE IN FY76.

B. DEA IDENTIFIED THE REQUIREMENT FOR SPECIALIZED SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS, WHICH HAVE THE APPEARANCE OF A WRAPPED PACKAGE. THESE CAMERAS ARE TO BE USED UNOBTAINABLY TO TAKE CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUSPECTS AND NARCOTICS TRANSACTIONS IN AIRPORTS, HOTEL LOBBIES AND OTHER LOCATIONS. THE CAMERAS WILL BE UTILIZED BY SNO (SPECIAL NARCOTICS ORGANIZATION), 7TH SUB-DIVISION, METRO AND THE PNSE (POLICE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION CENTER), WHERE DEA PERSONNEL ARE ASSIGNED AND CAN INSTRUCT IN CAMERA USE. SIMILARLY, TWO AERIAL CAMERAS WILL BE USED TO PHOTOGRAPH SUSPECTED TRAWLERS FROM THE AIR, SUSPECTED HEROIN "FACTORIES", TRAFFICKING ROUTES AND AREAS WHERE ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS ARE PLANNED SO ASSIGNED PERSONNEL CAN BE MORE THOROUGHLY BRIEFED. WE REENDORSE THESE AS HIGH PRIORITY ITEMS.

C. AS DESCRIBED ON PAGES 4 AND 5 OF THE MISSION SUBMISSION, THE PILOT PROJECT IN SUPPORT OF THE REGION V PROVINCIAL POLICE NARCOTICS TEAMS IS TO BE EVALUATED IN FY 76 TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF EXPANDING THIS CONCEPT TO OTHER CRITICAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AREAS AND ROUTES. THE PURCHASE OF SEDANS, MOTORCYCLES AND RADIOS DURING "SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS" WOULD BE TO SUPPORT THIS EXPANSION IF THE CONCEPT PROVES WORKABLE. THIS IS SECOND PRIORITY TO A AND B ABOVE AT THIS STAGE.

3. REFTEL PARA 2(B) CUSTOMS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

A. A SINGLE ENGINE, FIXED WING AIRCRAFT WAS PROPOSED IN FY 75 TO INCREASE THE CAPABILITY OF RTG CUSTOMS TO PATROL AND INTERDICT THE FLOW OF NARCOTICS AND SMUGGLED GOODS IN THE OPEN WATERS OF THE GULF OF THAILAND. HOWEVER, RTG CUSTOMS HAS ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING BUDGET TO SUPPORT THE AIRCRAFT. HANGERING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE AIRCRAFT AT DON MUANG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AIRPORT IS ANOTHER PROBLEM. CONSIDERING THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED, RTG CUSTOMS HAS REQUESTED THAT THE AIRCRAFT BE DROPPED FROM THE FY 75 PROGRAM. WE SO RECOMMEND.

B. REF. 65 FOOT PATROL BOATS. TWO ACTIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THIS PROPOSAL WAS SUBMITTED. FIRST, RTG CUSTOMS, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE U.S. CUSTOMS TEAM, HAS PREPARED A COMPREHENSIVE FIVE-YEAR MARINE

PLAN. SECONDLY, THE U.S. CUSTOMS MARINE ADVISOR RECENTLY SPENT A SHORT TDY IN THE U.S. STUDING VARIOUS PATROL BOAT DESIGNS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF U.S. NAVY EXPERTS AND CIVILIAN MANUFACTURERS. FINALLY A PRIVATE ANALYSIS OF RTG CUSTOMS MARINE REQUIREMENTS HAS ALSO BEEN COMMISSIONED BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL. ALL PARTIES NOW AGREE THAT THE PROPOSED 65 FOOT PATROL BOATS ARE UNNECESSARILY LARGE AND ARE EXPENSIVE TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN. THERE ARE SEVERAL U.S. MANUFACTURED PATROL BOATS IN THE 38 TO 44 FOOT CATEGORY ALREADY IN USE BY THE U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES FOR SEA PATROL. THE SMALLER 38 TO 44 FOOT PATROL BOATS MEET RTG CUSTOMS REQUIREMENTS AND WOULD REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS IN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE. WE PROPOSE TO REVISE THE REQUEST AND REPLACE THE 65 FOOT BOATS WITH SMALLER 38 TO 44 FOOT PATROL BOATS. MORE COMPLETE INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION WILL FOLLOW ON COMPLETION OF MISSION ANALYSIS OF THE MARINE PLAN AND BOAT STUDIES.

C. REF. BOAT MAINTENANCE. SEVERAL ACTIVITIES ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO UPGRADE THE RTG CUSTOMS MARINE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR CAPABILITY. THESE INCLUDE IMPROVED TOOL AND SPARE PART STOCKING, MAINTENANCE TRAINING FOR CUSTOMS ENGINEERING PERSONNEL AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE FACILITIES.

D. REF. BOAT TRAILERS. BOAT TRAILERS ARE NECESSARY FOR RAPID TRANSPORT AND WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE REVISED FY 75 BOAT REQUEST FOR PROCUREMENT IN THAILAND IF DETERMINED FEASIBLE, OR IF NOT IN THE UNITED STATES.

E. THE FY 75 AND 76 CUSTOMS IMPROVEMENT SUBMISSION
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INCLUDED A TOTAL OF 47 VEHICLES: 20 SEDANS, 10 JEEPS, 15 MOTORCYCLES AND 2 SURVEILLANCE VANS. THIS PROPOSAL IS TENTATIVE AND WAS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT AN INPUT TO SELECTED OUTLYING CUSTOMS STATIONS WOULD PROVIDE GREATER MOBILITY AND INCREASES EFFECTIVENESS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO INTERDICT THE FLOW OFNARCOTICS AND OTHER CONTRABAND. THIS INPUT WILL BE CONTINGENT UPON THE RESULTS OF AN OVERALL MISSION EVALUATION OF THE CUSTOMS PROJECT TO BE CONDUCTED EARLY IN FY 75 (PER BANGKOK TOAID A 341, PROGRAM EVALUATION FOR FY

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ACTION EA-10

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P 110930Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8253

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGKOK 17791

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: FY 76 NARCOTICS PROGRAM SUBMISSION

REF: STATE 234301

4. SUMMARY OF THE MISSION POSITION PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2
ABOVE: ITEMS FOR WHICH FUNDS SHOULD BE RESERVED IN FY 75
AND PROGRAMMED IN FY 76.

TNPD CUSTOMS

PRIORITY 1: A. SURVEILLANCE A. PATROL BOATS, FY 75-76
CAMERAS-FY 75

B. TRAWLERS, B. SUPPORT TO BOAT
FY 75-76 MAINTENANCE, FY 75-76

PRIORITY 2: A. VEHICLES AND A. SEDANS, JEEPS, MOTOR-
RADIOS IN CYCLES TO SUPPORT
SUPPORT OF CUSTOMS STATIONS
EXPANSION PP FY 75-76.
NARCOTIC TEAMS-
SUBSEQUENT FYS

PRIORITY 3: A. BOAT TRAILERS, FY 75-76
B. SURVEILLANCE VANS, FY 75-76
C. AIRCRAFT (DROPPED)

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5. REFTTEL PARAGRAPH 2(C). TECHNICAL SUPPORT FUNDING IS REQUESTED TO ALLOW THE MISSION FLEXIBILITY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR INVITATIONAL REGIONAL TRAVEL OF LOCAL OFFICIALS FOR THE PROMOTION OF GREATER COORDINATION BETWEEN COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, AND TO ALLOW QUICKER RESPONSE TO OTHER SHORT-TERM REQUIREMENTS AS THEY ARE IDENTIFIED. THESE WOULD BE ONE-SHOT ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO AND FURTHER THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION NARCOTICS PROGRAM AND, AS SUCH, WILL BE IDENTIFIED AT THE TIME OPPORTUNITIES ARISE.

6. IN REGARD QUESTIN YOUR STUDY OF "APPROPRIATENESS AND FEASIBILITY OF CROP/INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS" WE COMPLETELY IN AGREEMENT THAT FEASIBILITY MUST BE DEMONSTRATED. AT SAME TIME AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT ELSEWHERE THE VERY NATURE OF PROGRAMS AND TERRAIN INWHICH THEY MUST OPERATE PLUS CHARACTER OF HILLTRIBERS WILL RESULT IN HIGHER THAT NORMAL VULNERABILITY LEVEL. WHERE TECHNOLOGY, FOR EXAMPLE, IN CONSTRUCTION IS WELL KNOWN, "TECHNOLOGY" OF HOW TO SWITCH HILLTRIBERS TO OTHER BASIS OF LIFE IS NOT WHOLLY PERCEIVED; AND IN FACT ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IS TO ALLOW FOR EXPERIMENTATION. YET WITHOUT SUCH EXPERIMENTATION THERE IS NO OTHER LABORATORY TO SEE IF SUBSTANTIAL DENT CAN BE MADE IN OPIUM PRODUCTION PATTERN OVER PERIOD OF REASONABLE NUMBER OF YEARS.

7. IN REGARD TO "APPROPRIATENESS" WE TRUST YOU ARE NOT RAISING AFRESH THE MAJOR QUESTION OF WHETHER CROP AND INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING UNDER SECTION 482. WE HAD THOUGHT THIS BRIDGE CROSSED AND IN FACT AT ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIONS BY AMBASSADOR HANDLEY AS WELL AS AMBASSADORS UNGER AND KINTNER, DCM, USOM MISSION DIRECTOR, AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY MADE TO SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS INCLUDING MINISTER OF INTERIOR, HEAD OF PLANNING BOARD, MINISTER AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, HEAD OF DTEC AS TO IMPORTANCE OF RTG MOVING IN ON CROP AND INCOME SUBSTITUTION OPTIONS. WE HAVE GONE TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO STIMULATE AND GENERATE THAI INTEREST. IN PART WE HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO PIGGYBACK ON THEIR GROWING CONCERNS OVER DEBASEMENT OF CHAO PHYA WATERSHED THROUGH SLASH-AND-BURN ON HILLSIDES IN NORTH. IN PART WE HAVE HAD TO RIDE ON THEIR INTEREST IN STABILIZING POPULATION IN NORTHERN AREAS BORDERING ON BURMA. BUT, THEIR INTEREST NOW IN DOING SOMETHING ABOUT OPIUM POPPY PRODUCTION IS GENUINE.

EXCEPT FOR MODEST PROJECT ACTIVITIES OF KING'S HILLTRIGE
PROJECT, FORESTRY DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC WELFARE DEPARTMENT
AND UNFDAC IT IS STILL NOT REALISTIC TO EXPECT MAJOR
INCREASE IN EITHER THAI BUDGET EXPENDITURES FOR THESE
PURPOSES IN THE NORTH OR LEVEL OF ACTIVITY. THIS IS
AREA WHERE 482 FUNDS CAN PLAY CATALYTIC ROLE.

8. ABOVE STATEMENT VIEWED HERE AS IMPORTANT INGREDIENT
IN PLANNING FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE'S CONSULTATION SINCE WE
WOULD SUFFER VERY SEVERE SETBACK IF THERE WERE ANY
ITIMATION IN HIS MEETINGS WITH THAI OR UN PERSONNEL
THAT WE WERE REOPENING BASIC QUESTION OF OUR COMMITMENT
TO TRY TO DO SOMETHING IN REGARD TO CROP AND INCOME
SUBSTITUTION.
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